

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Order No. R1-2003-0001
ID No. 1B80045OMEN

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

FOR

THE CITY OF POINT ARENA
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Mendocino County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board), finds that:

1. The City of Point Arena (hereinafter permittee) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge dated September 13, 2000. Supplemental information to complete filing of the application was submitted on July 11, 2002, and October 22, 2002.
2. The Point Arena Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is owned and operated by the permittee to provide wastewater collection, treatment and disposal for the City of Point Arena. The WWTF is located adjacent to Point Arena Creek in the NW ¼ of Section 13, T12N, R17W MDB&M, as shown in Attachment "A" to this Order.
3. The WWTF is designed to provide secondary treatment for up to 0.13 million gallons of wastewater per day (mgd), average dry weather flow. Treatment consists of two aerated ponds followed by disinfection prior to being discharged to four percolation ponds. A process flow schematic of the WWTF is shown in Attachment "B" to this Order.
4. The permittee is currently undertaking an irrigation project designed to reclaim treated wastewater, expand the effective percolation area, and to provide a mechanism to lower pond levels in anticipation of and during breaks in wet weather. It is anticipated that, when weather conditions allow, wastewater will be discharged by spray irrigation on to up to 20 acres of pasture on the bluff above the treatment plant. The pasture is located adjacent to the percolation ponds and is currently planted in non-irrigated grasses. The spray disposal area, shown in Attachment "C" to this Order, is identified as the "Thrift Property" and is available for use under an Irrigation Agreement between the City of Point Arena and the property owner.
5. A 1977 Environment Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the original pond construction project identifies a spring located in the ravine to the east of the

percolation ponds. A geotechnical investigation conducted as part of the EIR also indicates that, given the hydrogeology of the bluff, seepage from the ponds will likely daylight in the upper areas of eastern ravine. The results of past water quality monitoring at the spring, however, provide no evidence that pond seepage has contributed to or degraded the water quality of the spring. The implementation of the spray irrigation project will decrease any potential impact of pond seepage to the spring.

6. The Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) includes water quality objectives and receiving water limitations.
7. The beneficial uses of the Point Arena Creek include:
 - a. municipal and domestic supply
 - b. agricultural supply
 - c. industrial process supply
 - d. groundwater recharge
 - e. water contact recreation
 - f. non-contact water recreation
 - g. commercial and sport fishing
 - h. cold freshwater habitat
 - i. wildlife habitat
 - j. migration of aquatic organisms
 - k. spawning, reproduction, and/or development
 - l. estuarine habitat
 - m. aquaculture
8. Beneficial uses of areal groundwaters include:
 - a. domestic water supply
 - b. agricultural water supply
 - c. industrial water supply
9. The discharge is currently governed by Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 96-15, adopted by the Regional Water Board on March 28, 1996.
10. A negative declaration was prepared and certified by the City of Point Arena on November 14, 2000, to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code Section 21000 et. seq.). The negative declaration evaluated the impacts of the discharge of treated wastewater to the irrigation field on groundwater quality. Acting as a responsible agency, the Regional Water Board has considered the negative declaration as required pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15096.
11. The Regional Water Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge

and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations.

12. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.
13. The permitted discharge is consistent with the provisions of State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 68-16, Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California. This Order provides for a discharge of treated wastewater containing pollutants (nitrate-nitrogen) that could ultimately enter groundwater underlying the spray disposal area. The permittee has completed a nitrogen mass balance evaluation to determine the wastewater application rate required to meet the nitrogen requirements of the pasture grasses. Adherence to the application rate will minimize the likelihood that nitrates from treated wastewater will enter groundwater and degrade groundwater quality. Thus, the impact of the discharge on existing groundwater quality is insignificant.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 96-15 is rescinded and the discharger, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code (CWC) and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

1. The discharge of any waste not specifically regulated by this Order is prohibited.
2. Creation of a pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by CWC Section 13050, is prohibited.
3. The discharge of waste to land that is not under the control of the discharger is prohibited, except as authorized under Section C (**SOLIDS DISPOSAL AND HANDLING REQUIREMENTS**).
4. The discharge of untreated waste from anywhere within the collection, treatment, or disposal facility is prohibited.
5. The discharge of waste from the Point Arena Wastewater Treatment Facility to surface waters, including the Point Arena Creek or its tributaries is prohibited.
6. The discharge of waste from the Point Arena Wastewater Treatment Facility to groundwater is prohibited.

B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. Representative samples of the wastewater discharged to the percolation ponds shall not contain constituents in excess of the following limits:

Constituent	Unit	Monthly Average ^a	Daily Maximum ^b
BOD (20° C, 5-day)	mg/l	50	80
Suspended Solids	mg/l	50	80
Settleable Solids	ml/l	0.1	0.2

2. The disinfected effluent discharged from the WWTF to the percolation ponds shall not contain concentrations of total coliform bacteria exceeding the following limitations:
 - a. The monthly median concentration shall not exceed a Most Probable Number of 23 per 100 milliliters, using the bacteriological results for the month for which analyses have been completed.
 - b. The daily maximum concentration shall not exceed a Most Probable Number of 230 per 100 milliliters in any sample in a calendar month.
3. The mean daily dry weather flow of waste shall not exceed 0.13 mgd averaged over a calendar month.
4. The discharge shall maintain at least 1 foot of freeboard in the percolation ponds.

C. SOLIDS DISPOSAL AND HANDLING REQUIREMENTS

1. All collected screenings, sludges, and other solids removed from liquid wastes shall be disposed of in a municipal solid waste landfill, reused by land application, disposed of in a sludge-only landfill, or incinerated in accordance with 40 CFR Parts 257, 258, 501, and 503, the State Water Board promulgated provisions of Title 27, Division 2, of the California Code of Regulations, and with the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (California Ocean Plan). If the permittee desires to dispose of solids or sludge by a different method, a request for permit modification shall be submitted to the North Coast Regional Water Board 180 days prior to the alternative disposal.
2. All the requirements in 40 CFR 503 are enforceable by U.S. EPA whether or not they are stated in an NPDES permit or other permit issued to the discharger. The Regional Water Board should be copied on relevant correspondence and reports forwarded to the U.S. EPA regarding sludge management practices.
3. Sludge that is disposed of in a municipal solid waste landfill or used as landfill daily cover shall meet the applicable requirements of 40 CFR Part 258. In the annual self-monitoring report, the permittee shall include the amount of sludge disposed of and the landfill(s) to which it was sent.

^a The arithmetic mean of all samples collected in a calendar month, calculated as the sum of all samples in a calendar month divided by the number of samples.

^b The maximum sample of all samples collected in a calendar day.

4. Sludge that is applied to land as soil amendment shall meet pollutant ceiling concentrations and pollutant concentrations, pathogen reduction and vector attraction reduction requirements, and annual and cumulative discharge limitations of 40 CFR Part 503.
5. Sludge that is disposed of through surface disposal, including but not limited to trench systems, area-fill systems, active waste piles, and active impoundments or lagoons shall meet the applicable requirements of 40 CFR Part 503. Sludge stored beyond two years may be considered disposal and regulated as a waste pile or surface impoundment under Title 27 Division 2 of the California Code of Regulations.
6. The permittee is responsible for ensuring compliance with these regulations whether the permittee uses or disposes of the sludge itself or contracts with another party for further treatment, use, or disposal. The permittee is responsible for informing subsequent preparers, applicators, and disposers of the requirements that they must meet under 40 CFR Parts 257, 258, and 503.
7. The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to prevent and minimize any sludge use or disposal in violation of this Order that has a likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.
8. Solids and sludge treatment, storage, and disposal or reuse shall not create a nuisance, such as objectionable odors or flies, and shall not result in groundwater contamination.
9. The solids and sludge treatment and storage site shall have facilities adequate to divert surface water runoff from adjacent areas, to protect the boundaries of the site from erosion, and to prevent drainage from the treatment and storage site. Adequate protection is defined as protection from at least a 100-year storm and protection from the highest possible tidal stage that may occur.
10. The discharge of sewage sludge and solids shall not cause waste material to be in a position where it is, or can be, conveyed from the treatment and storage sites and deposited in the waters of the state.

D. WATER RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Reclaimed water shall be managed in conformance with regulations contained in Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations.
2. The use of reclaimed water that results in unreasonable waste of water is prohibited.
3. The use of reclaimed water that creates a condition of pollution or nuisance is prohibited.

4. Reclaimed water shall not be applied to irrigation areas during periods when uncontrolled runoff may occur.
5. The discharger shall be responsible to insure that all users of reclaimed water comply with the terms and conditions of this Order.
6. Reclaimed water shall be applied in such a manner so as not to exceed vegetative demand or field capacity.
7. All piping, valves, and outlets shall be marked to differentiate reclaimed water from other sources.
8. There shall be no connection between a potable water supply and the reclaimed water distribution system.
9. There shall be no irrigation or impoundment of reclaimed water within 100 feet of any water well.
10. Adequate measures shall be taken to prevent the breeding of insects and other vectors.
11. Perimeter warning signs indicating reclaimed water use shall be posted at least every 500 feet with a minimum of a sign at each corner and access road.

E. WATER RECYCLING PROVISIONS

1. By July 1, 2003 the Permittee shall submit for Regional Water Board and DHS approval, an engineering report for the use of reclaimed water as required by Sections 60313(d), 60314, and 60323 of Title 22.
2. The permittee shall establish and enforce rules and/or regulations governing the design and construction of recycled water use facilities and the use of recycled water in accordance with the criteria established in Title 22 and this Order.
3. In the event the permittee does not comply or will be unable to comply for any reason, with any prohibitions, limitation, or provision of this Order, the permittee shall notify the Regional Water Board by telephone within 24 hours of having knowledge of such noncompliance, and shall confirm this notification in writing within five days, unless the Regional Water Board waives confirmation. The written notification shall state the nature, time, duration, and cause of noncompliance, and shall describe the measures being taken to remedy the current noncompliance and prevent occurrence including, where applicable, a schedule of implementation.
4. Any discharge of untreated or partially treated wastewater to the use area, and the cessation of the same, shall be reported immediately by telephone to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer, DHS, and the local health officer.

F. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Availability

A copy of this Order shall be maintained at the discharge facility and be available at all times to operating personnel.

2. Severability

Provisions of these waste discharge requirements are severable. If any provision of these requirements is found invalid, the remainder of these requirements shall not be affected.

3. Sanitary Sewer Overflows

a. All feasible steps shall be taken to stop sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) as soon as possible by unblocking the line, diverting the overflow to a nearby sewer line, and/or otherwise mitigating impacts of SSOs. All reasonable steps should be taken to collect spilled sewage and protect the public from contact with wastes or waste-contaminated soil.

b. SSOs shall be reported to the Regional Water Board staff in accordance with the following:

i. *All SSOs reaching surface water and all SSOs in excess of 1,000 gallons* shall be reported immediately by telephone. A written description of the event shall be submitted within two weeks after the date of verbal notification.

ii. *All SSOs that result in a sewage spills between 5 and 1,000 gallons* that does not reach a waterway shall be reported by telephone within 24 hours if a SSO results. A written description of the event shall be submitted with the monthly monitoring report.

iii. *All SSOs that result in a sewage spills less than 5 gallons* that do not enter a waterway do not require Regional Water Board notification.

iv. Information to be provided verbally includes:

- a. Name and contact information of caller
- b. Date, time and location of SSO occurrence
- c. Estimates of spill volume, rate of flow, and spill duration
- d. Surface water bodies impacted, if any
- e. Cause of spill
- f. Cleanup actions taken or repairs made

- g. Responding agencies
- v. Information to be provided in writing includes:
 - a. Information provided in verbal notification.
 - b. Other agencies notified by phone.
 - c. Detailed description of cleanup actions and repairs taken.
 - d. Description of actions that will be taken to minimize or prevent future spills.
- c. The permittee shall submit an annual report to the Regional Water Board describing the permittee's activities within the collection system over the previous calendar year. This annual report is due on March 1st of each year and shall contain:
 - i. A description of any change in the local legal authorities enacted to implement the program.
 - ii. A summary of the SSOs that occurred in the past year. The summary shall include the date, location of overflow point, affected receiving water (if any), estimated volume, and cause of the SSO, the names and addresses of the responsible parties (if other than the permittee).
 - iii. A summary of compliance and enforcement activities during the past year. The summary shall include fines or other penalties, corrective actions.
 - iv. Documentation of steps taken to stop and mitigate impacts of sanitary sewer overflows.
- 4. Operation and Maintenance

The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) that are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with this Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes adequate laboratory control and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems that are installed by a permittee only when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Order.
[40 CFR 122.41(e)]

The permittee shall comply with this Provision by submitting to the Regional Water Board within 180 days of the effective date of this Order an updated Operation and Maintenance Manual (O&M Manual) that it has developed for the City of Point Arena WWTF. The permittee shall update the O&M Manual, as necessary, to conform with changes in operation and maintenance of the WWTF. The O&M Manual shall be readily available to operating personnel on-site. The O&M Manual shall include the following:

- a. Description of the treatment plant table of organization showing the number of employees, duties and qualifications and plant attendance schedules (daily, weekends and holidays, part-time, etc.). The description

should include documentation that the personnel are knowledgeable and qualified to operate the treatment facility so as to achieve the required level of treatment at all times.

- b. Detailed description of safe and effective operation and maintenance of treatment processes, process control instrumentation and equipment.
- c. Description of laboratory and quality assurance procedures.
- d. Process and equipment inspection and maintenance schedules.
- e. Description of safeguards to assure that, should there be reduction, loss, or failure of electric power, the discharger will be able to comply with requirements of this Order.
- f. Description of preventive (fail-safe) and contingency (response and cleanup) plans for controlling accidental discharges, and for minimizing the effect of such events. These plans shall identify the possible sources (such as loading and storage areas, power outage, waste treatment unit failure, process equipment failure, tank and piping failure) of accidental discharges, untreated or partially treated waste bypass, and polluted drainage.

5. Change in Discharge

The discharger shall promptly report to the Regional Water Board any material change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.

6. Change in Ownership

In the event of any change in control or ownership of land or waste discharge facilities presently owned or controlled by the discharger, the discharger shall notify the succeeding owner or operator of the following items by letter, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Regional Water Board:

- a. existence of this Order, and
- b. the status of the dischargers' annual fee account

7. Vested Rights

This Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges. The requirements prescribed herein do not authorize the commission of any act causing injury to persons or property, nor protect the discharger from liability under federal, state, or local laws, nor create a vested right for the discharger to continue the waste discharge.

8. Monitoring

The discharger shall comply with the Contingency Planning and Notification Requirements Order No. 74-151 and the Monitoring and Reporting Program No.

R1-2003-0001 and any modifications to these documents as specified by the Executive Officer. Such documents are attached to this Order and incorporated herein. Chemical, bacteriological, and bioassay analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Health Services shall conform to State Department of Health Services guidelines.

9. Signatory Requirements

- a. All Report of Waste Discharge applications submitted to the Regional Water Board shall be signed by a principal Executive Officer, ranking elected official, or responsible corporate officer. For purposes of this provision, a responsible corporate officer means:
 - i. A president, secretary, treasurer, or vice president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy or decision making functions for the corporation; or
 - ii. the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities employing more than 250 persons or having gross annual sales or expenditures exceeding \$25 million (in second quarter 1980 dollars), if authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.
- b. Reports required by this Order, other information requested by the Regional Water Board, and Permit applications submitted for Group II storm water discharges under 40 CFR 122.26(b)(3) may be signed by a duly authorized representative provided:
 - i. the authorization is made in writing by a person described in paragraph (a) of this provision;
 - ii. the authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity such as the position of plant manager, operator of a well or a well field, superintendent, position of equivalent responsibility, or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company; and
 - iii. the written authorization is submitted to the Regional Water Board prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications signed by the authorized representative. [40 CFR 122.22(b)(c)]
- c. Any person signing a document under paragraph (a) or (b) of this provision shall make the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted, is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant

penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations." [40 CFR 122.22(d)]

10. Inspections

The discharger shall permit authorized staff of the Regional Water Board:

- a. to enter premises in which an effluent source is located or in which any required records are kept;
- b. access to copy any records required to be kept under terms and conditions of this Order;
- c. to inspect monitoring equipment or records; and
- d. to sample any discharge.

11. Noncompliance

In the event the discharger is unable to comply with any of the conditions of this Order due to:

- a. breakdown of waste treatment equipment;
- b. accidents caused by human error or negligence; or
- c. other causes such as acts of nature;

the discharger shall notify the Executive Officer by telephone as soon as it or its agents have knowledge of the incident and confirm this notification in writing within two weeks of the telephone notification. The written notification shall include pertinent information explaining reasons for the noncompliance and shall indicate the steps taken to correct the problem and the dates thereof, and the steps being taken to prevent the problem from recurring.

12. Revision of Requirements

The Regional Water Board will review this Order periodically and may revise requirements when necessary.

13. Operator Certification

Supervisors and operators of municipal wastewater treatment plants shall possess a certificate of appropriate grade in accordance with Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3680. The State Water Board may accept experience in lieu of qualification training. In lieu of a properly certified wastewater treatment plant operator, the State Water Board may approve use of a water treatment plant operator of appropriate grade certified by the State Department of Health Services where water reclamation is involved.

14. Adequate Capacity

Whenever a publicly owned wastewater treatment plant will reach capacity within four years, the discharger shall notify the Regional Water Board. A copy of such notification shall be sent to appropriate local elected officials, local permitting agencies, and the press. Factors to be evaluated in assessing reserve capacity shall include, at a minimum; (1) comparison of the wet weather design flow with

the highest daily flow; and (2) comparison of the average dry weather design flow with the lowest monthly flow. The discharger shall demonstrate that adequate steps are being taken to address the capacity problem. The discharger shall submit a technical report to the Regional Water Board showing how flow volumes will be prevented from exceeding capacity, or how capacity will be increased, within 120 days after providing notification to the Regional Water Board, or within 120 days after receipt of Regional Water Board notification, that the publicly-owned treatment works will reach capacity within four years. The time for filing the required technical report may be extended by the Regional Water Board. An extension of 30 days may be granted by the Executive Officer, and longer extensions may be granted by the Regional Water Board itself.

Certification

I, Susan A. Warner, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on January 23, 2003.

Susan A. Warner
Executive Officer